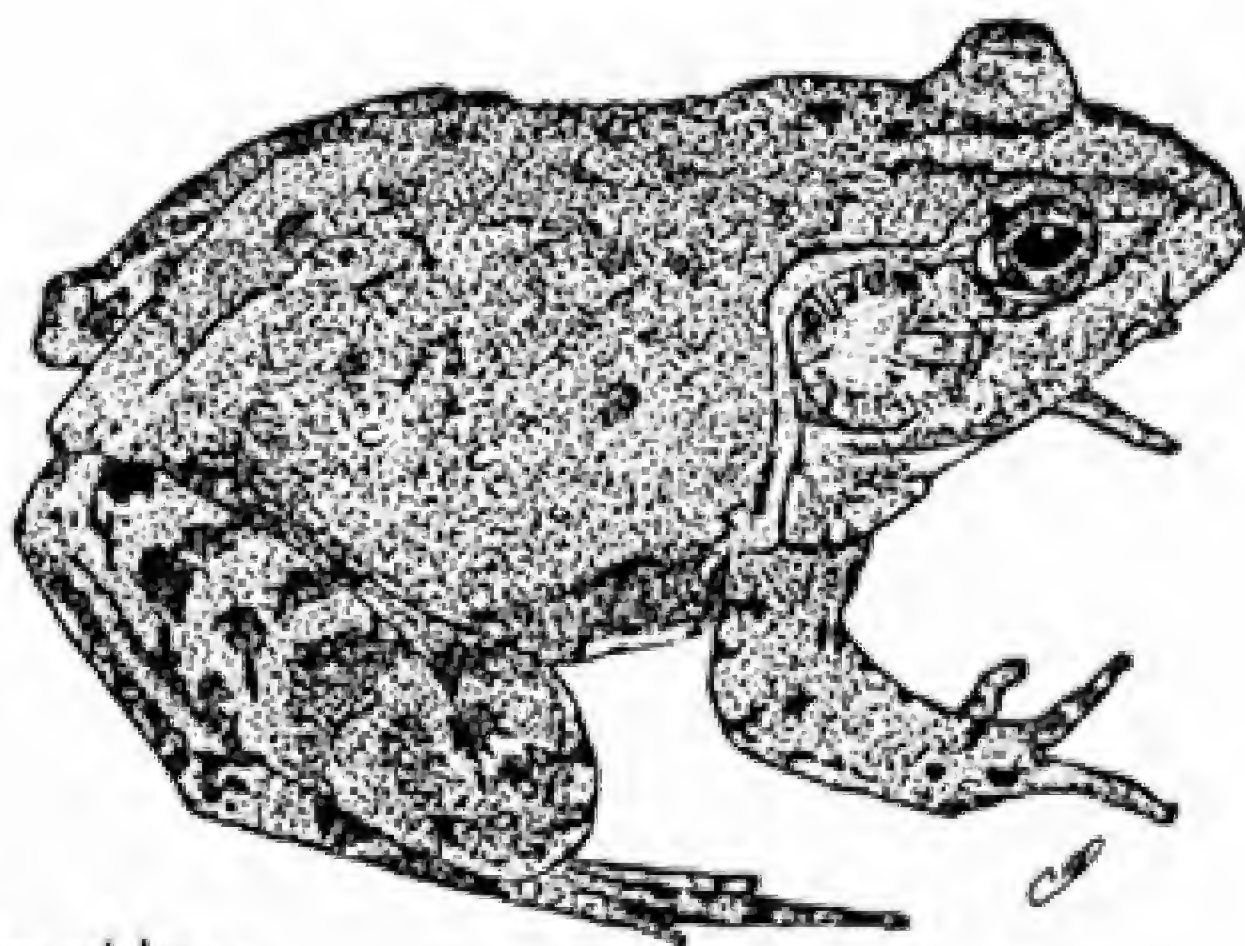


# CATESBEIANA



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## BULLETIN INFORMATION

*Catesbeiana* is published twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana*, two newsletters, and admission to all meetings. Annual dues for regular membership are \$15.00 (see application form on last page for other membership categories). Payments received after September 1 of any given year will apply to membership for the following calendar year. Dues are payable to: Dr. Paul Sattler, VHS Secretary/Treasurer, Department of Biology, Liberty University, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502.

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The principal function of *Catesbeiana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbeiana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to the suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to Dr. Steven M. Roble, Editor, *Catesbeiana*, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, 217 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

### Major Papers

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8½ by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information, including the appropriate format for literature citations. The metric system should be used for reporting all types of measurement data. Computer diskettes (Word or WordPerfect format) are desired for longer papers. Submissions concerning the herpetofauna of selected areas, such as a state park or county, should be prepared in article rather than field note format. Articles will be refereed by the editor and at least one other qualified reviewer. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore, manuscripts must be received by the editor before the first of March and September to be considered for publication in the spring or fall issue, respectively, of *Catesbeiana*. Reprints of articles are not available to authors; however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

(Editorial policy continued on inside back cover)

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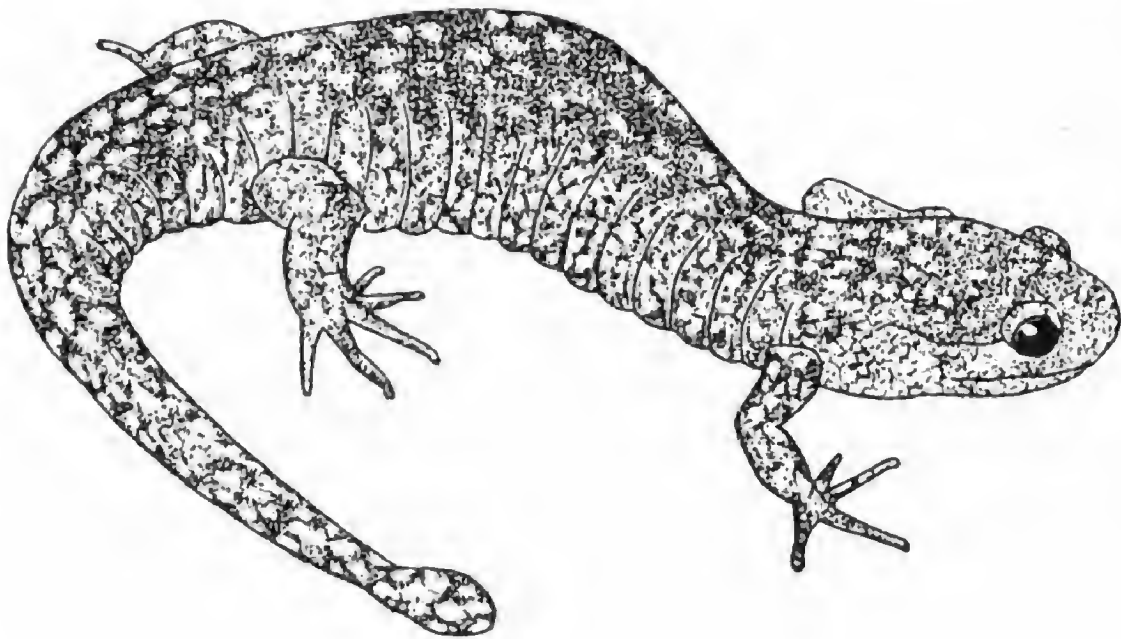
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## Next Meeting:

October 12, 2002  
Holliday Lake 4-H Educational Center  
Appomattox, Virginia  
See page 65 for details





Mabee's Salamander (*Ambystoma mabeei*)

Drawing by Michael J. Pinder

# Records of Amphibians and Reptiles from "The Cedars" Region of Lee County, Virginia

Steven M. Roble and Christopher S. Hobson  
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Natural Heritage  
217 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

## Introduction

The southwestern corner of Virginia lies within the Upper Tennessee River drainage and harbors several species of amphibians and reptiles that are limited to this area of the state, such as the Black Mountain salamander (*Desmognathus welteri*), northern map turtle (*Graptemys geographica*), and eastern black kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula nigra*). Lee County, the southwesternmost county in Virginia, covers 438 mi<sup>2</sup> (ca. 113,450 ha) and contains a diverse and biogeographically interesting herpetofauna (Burger, 1974, 1975; Mitchell and Pague, 1984). Mitchell and Pague (1984) recorded the presence of 25 species of amphibians and 21 species of reptiles from this county. The recent atlas of Virginia's herpetofauna (Mitchell and Reay, 1999) plots records for 27 amphibians and 19 reptiles in Lee County, omitting unvouchered records for the spiny softshell (*Apalone spinifera*), painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), and timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) (Burger, 1975; Mitchell and Pague, 1984; Tobey, 1985; Mitchell, 1994). The only species added to the Lee County list between 1984 and 1999 were mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) (Tobey, 1985; Mitchell and Pague [1984] indicated that this species inhabits the Powell River but did not include it in their checklist for Lee County), ravine salamander (*Plethodon richmondi*), and eastern hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) (Roble and Hobson, 1996).

"The Cedars" area of central Lee County, Virginia (Fig. 1) is a geologically unique region that extends southwestward from the Town of Jonesville along a gently rolling valley, approximately 1-3 miles (1.6-4.8 km) wide and 10 miles (16 km) long, toward the Tennessee border (Culver et al., 1992). The name is derived from an abundance of eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) growing throughout the rocky terrain. The topography is characterized by extensive bare limestone ledges, numerous sinkholes, blind

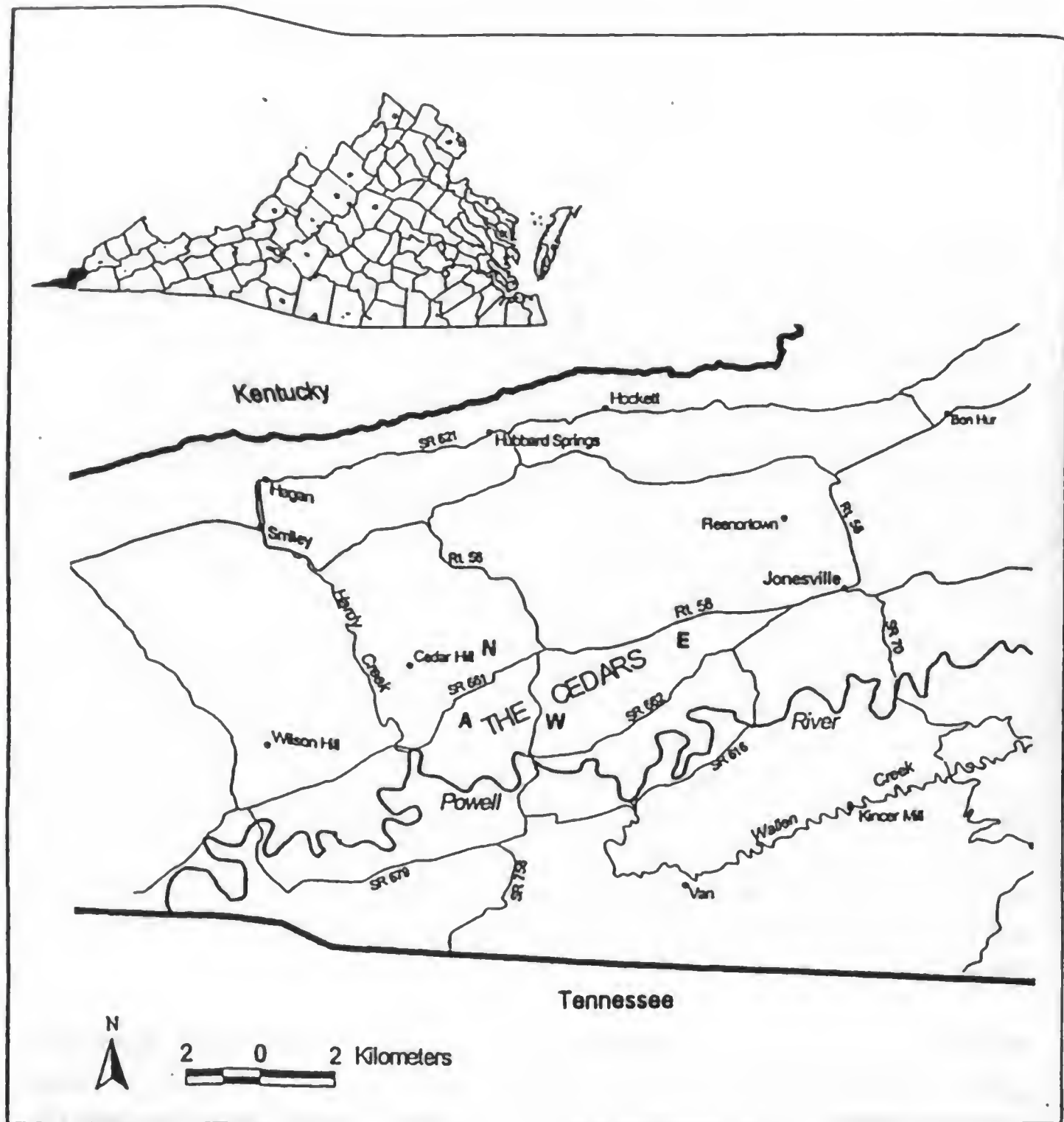


Fig. 1. Location of The Cedars area of central Lee County, Virginia.  
Letter codes: A = new airport site; parcels of The Cedars Natural  
Area Preserve: E = eastern, W = western, N = northern.



## Herps of The Cedars, Lee County, Virginia

valleys, sinking streams, subterranean drainages, and caves. The Cedars is a mature karst terrane developed on soluble limestone of middle Ordovician age. This unique area provides habitat for numerous rare, calciphilic plants such as the recently described running glade clover (*Trifolium calcaricum*), as well as various state or globally rare invertebrates such as the goatweed butterfly (*Anaea andria*), Olympia marble (*Euchloe olympia*), cedars millipede (*Brachoria cedra*), and the federally endangered Lee County cave isopod (*Lirceus usdagalun*) (pers. obs.; Holsinger and Bowman, 1973; Clench and Opler, 1984; Hoffman, 1991; Collins and Wieboldt, 1992; USFWS, 1997; Ludwig, 1999). Numerous cedar or limestone glades, a distinctive type of natural community characterized by mostly open canopies, shallow or rocky soils, herbaceous vegetation and grasses, and generally xeric conditions (Baskin and Baskin, 1999), are present in The Cedars. The herpetofauna of similar cedar glade habitats in Tennessee has been studied by Jordan et al. (1968) and Jordan (1986).

This paper provides records of amphibians and reptiles that we have encountered in The Cedars during general zoological surveys. This area of Lee County was not investigated during the surveys conducted by Mitchell and Pague (1984; see Fig. 1 of their paper). Three of the parcels that we surveyed are protected as part of The Cedars Natural Area Preserve, which is owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage. Another parcel is currently being developed as the new Lee County Regional Airport.

### Study Sites

The new Lee County airport site is along the south side of County Route 661, approximately 10 km southwest of Jonesville. We surveyed this area for several days in August and September 1995 while it was still in a relatively natural condition. At least seven small caves or sinkholes were present on the airport site. Forest habitat on this consisted of red cedar and mixed hardwoods. The western portion of this area had been timbered in the recent past. Within the past several years, the entire site has been clearcut and the caves and sinkholes destroyed by the dumping of rock and dirt fill to create a level surface for the airport runways and associated facilities.

We surveyed portions of three parcels comprising The Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The northern parcel borders Dry Creek north of County Route 661. Dry Creek is a perennial stream that runs through a deciduous forest. The southwest-facing hillside above the stream includes several cedar glade habitats as well as a mesic deciduous forest. The eastern parcel is along U.S. Route 58, approximately 6 km W of Jonesville. This tract contains many small (but one is at least 10 meters deep) and several large sinkholes. Habitat in the forest is primarily mixed oak-pine forest. The western parcel abuts County Route 758. Habitat within this portion of the preserve is primarily dense red cedar-hardwood forest, with abundant poison ivy in the understory. Several small limestone outcrops were noted, and numerous flat limestone rocks are present on the site.

Currently, there is no public access to the natural area preserve, but plans are being developed to prepare facilities (e.g., parking lots, trails) to accommodate visitors in the future. As of September 2002, the preserve encompasses 709 acres (287 ha) in four discrete parcels.

### Materials and Methods

Sampling was conducted at brief (1-2 days), irregular intervals from August 1995 to August 2002. Most of our sampling in August and September 1995 was focused on the site of the proposed airport, which is currently under construction. Our surveys on the natural area preserve were conducted in May 1999, April-June 2000, and August 2002. Road cruising was limited to the night of 10 August 1995. Sims Spring, near the western end of The Cedars, was sampled on 1 December 1996, but no amphibians or reptiles were observed. Spout Spring, Batie Spring, and a number of smaller springs occur in The Cedars but we did not sample them.

Male vocalizations and visual observations were used to document frogs and toads. Terrestrial salamanders were found by overturning rocks and logs, breaking apart decaying woody debris and logs, and by examining caves and sinkholes. Snakes and lizards were documented by overturning available cover and by incidental observation. Turtles were found by visual searching. Due to the brevity of our visits, no specialized herpetofaunal trapping techniques were employed. Voucher specimens were collected for selected species (denoted by asterisks in the annotated checklist) and are deposited in



## Herps of The Cedars, Lee County, Virginia

the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Photographs were taken of some additional specimens.

### Results

Despite the fact that our surveys were generally brief and most of our observations were made incidental to general zoological surveys of the study area, we recorded 15 species of amphibians (5 salamanders, 10 anurans [frogs and toads]) and 9 species of reptiles (1 turtle, 2 lizards, and 6 snakes) in The Cedars. This total is only about half of the known Lee County herpetofauna. However, our tally of species included two new county records and a third species that had not been recorded from Lee County in nearly 40 years. More intensive herpetofaunal surveys would undoubtedly yield additional species, particularly snakes. The following annotated checklist contains a brief summary of our observations for each species.

### Annotated Checklist

#### Amphibians

1. *Aneides aeneus* (Green salamander)\*

Two green salamanders were found in small caves on the airport property. A juvenile was collected on 10 August 1995 and an adult was observed on 5 September 1995. This population is one of four documented in Lee County and was plotted as an open circle by Mitchell and Reay (1999). Green salamanders probably occur in similar habitats on the natural area preserve, but none were observed during surveys on 6 May 1999.

2. *Eurycea longicauda longicauda* (Long-tailed salamander)\*

One adult was collected on 10 August 1995 under a flat rock on the airport property. Another was observed on 6 May 1999 in a rockface crevice within a large sinkhole on the eastern tract of the natural area preserve. These are the westernmost documented populations of this species in Virginia (Mitchell and Reay, 1999).

3. *Eurycea lucifuga* (Cave salamander)\*

One adult was collected on 9 August 1995 near the entrance of a small cave on the airport property. An adult male was also collected during a rainstorm on the following night while crossing County Route 654, 1 km north of its junction with County Route 612. This site is south of The Cedars near Wallen Creek. One adult was observed on the wall of a small cave at the airport site on 5 September 1995. Six adults were observed on 6 May 1999 in the same large sinkhole on the natural area preserve that harbored a single long-tailed salamander. All were observed in crevices in the limestone rockface.

4. *Plethodon glutinosus* (Northern slimy salamander)

This species was found in several small caves and sinkholes on the airport property, but was less numerous than the following species. Slimy salamanders were also found in forested habitats and sinkhole rock crevices on the natural area preserve.

5. *Plethodon kentucki* (Cumberland Plateau salamander)

Numerous adults and juveniles of this species were found in several small caves and sinkholes on the airport property. On 5 September 1995, this species was observed in two small caves on the airport property, four were found in one cave and more than 25 in the other.

6. *Bufo americanus americanus* (Eastern American toad)

Several American toads were observed on the airport property. The species was also observed in abundance on local roads during a rainstorm on the night of 10 August 1995. An ovipositing pair was observed on 6 May 1999 in a shallow road rut near Dry Creek on the natural area preserve.

7. *Bufo fowleri* (Fowler's toad)

Several Fowler's toads were observed on local roads during a rainstorm on the night of 10 August 1995. Contrary to the results of our limited observations, other reports (e.g., Mitchell and Pague, 1984; Jordan, 1986)



## Herps of The Cedars, Lee County, Virginia

suggest that this species should have been more abundant than the American toad in the study area.

### 8. *Gastrophryne carolinensis* (Eastern narrow-mouthed toad)\*

Several adults and fresh eggs were observed on 9 August 1995 at a small farm pond bordering the airport site; one adult was collected under a small rock (Roble and Hobson, 2000). This record was the first documentation of narrow-mouthed toads in Lee County since the 1950's records of Fowler and Hoffman (1951) and Burger (1974). Whether or not this pond will continue to function as a breeding site for narrow-mouthed toads following the construction of the airport remains to be determined.

### 9. *Hyla chrysoscelis* (Cope's gray treefrog)\*

Chorusing males called from trees on several parcels in the study area. This species was common along local roads during a rainstorm on the night of 10 August 1995. Many males were calling from roadside ditches or at farm ponds; several large choruses were heard. Two DOR males were collected that night on County Route 679, 1 km west of the junction with County Route 758. This species was heard on all three tracts of the natural area preserve on 6 May 1999.

### 10. *Pseudacris crucifer crucifer* (Northern spring peeper)

Scattered males were heard calling during the first week of May 1999 on all three tracts of the natural area preserve. A breeding chorus was present on 6 May 1999 in an open field off U.S. Route 58, about 6 km west of Jonesville. Approximately 2 inches (5 cm) of rain had fallen the previous evening.

### 11. *Pseudacris feriarum* (Upland chorus frog)

Chorus frogs were heard calling on the morning of 6 May 1999 on the western tract of the natural area preserve. Mitchell and Reay (1999) stated that this species does not occur in far southwestern Virginia, their westernmost record being from Washington County. Therefore, our unvouchered county record for Lee County needs to be supported by a

specimen or photograph in the future. Redmond and Scott (1996) plotted several records for this species (as *Pseudacris triseriata*) in northeastern Tennessee just below the Virginia border, so the presence of *P. feriarum* in Lee County, Virginia is not unexpected. The surveys of Burger (1974) and Mitchell and Pague (1984) were conducted exclusively in July, which likely explains why they missed *P. feriarum*, a spring-breeding species.

12. *Rana catesbeiana* (American bullfrog)

Several bullfrogs were observed on local roads during a rainstorm on the night of 10 August 1995.

13. *Rana clamitans melanota* (Northern green frog)

Several green frogs were observed on local roads during a rainstorm on the night of 10 August 1995. This species was also heard and seen along Dry Creek on 21-22 August 2002.

14. *Rana palustris* (Pickerel frog)

Several pickerel frogs were observed during August 1995 on the airport site. This species was also encountered on 7 May 1999 along Dry Creek within the natural area preserve.

15. *Rana sylvatica* (Wood frog)

Two wood frogs were found on 9 August 1995 in a small cave on the airport property. This record slightly extends the westernmost documented range limit of this species in Virginia (Mitchell and Reay, 1999).

## Reptiles

16. *Terrapene carolina carolina* (Eastern box turtle)

Several adults and remnant shells were observed in forested habitats on the airport property and natural area preserve. One live adult was seen crossing County Route 656 near a local golf course on the morning of 6 May 1999.



## Herps of The Cedars, Lee County, Virginia

### 17. *Eumeces fasciatus* (Five-lined skink)

Several adults and juveniles were observed in the forested habitats on the study area.

### 18. *Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus* (Northern fence-lizard)

Several adult and juvenile fence lizards were observed in the study area, including the cedar glades above Dry Creek. This species is often common in cedar glade habitats (Jordan, 1986).

### 19. *Carphophis amoenus amoenus* (Eastern wormsnake)\*

Wormsnakes were found under flat rocks and in or under downed and decaying logs on the airport site and the northern tract of the natural area preserve. Several specimens were collected.

### 20. *Diadophis punctatus edwardsii* (Northern ring-necked snake)

Ring-necked snakes were found under rocks and logs on the northern tract of the natural area preserve.

### 21. *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* (Black ratsnake)

One adult (total length ca. 1.3 m) was observed on the airport site. If Burbrink's (2001) new taxonomic arrangement of ratsnakes is adopted, this population falls within the geographic range of *Elaphe spiloides*.

### 22. *Heterodon platirhinos* (Eastern hog-nosed snake)\*

An adult that was collected on 10 August 1995 on the airport property represented a new county record and a significant western range extension within Virginia (Roble and Hobson, 1996). This species is also known from extreme southeastern Kentucky (Meade, 1991).

23. *Lampropeltis getula nigra* (Eastern black kingsnake)

A juvenile was captured and released on 27 April 2000 on the natural area preserve near Dry Creek. It was found beneath a flat rock in a cedar glade opening on a southwest-facing slope. The specimen was marked with a yellowish broken chainlike pattern on the dorsal surface and sides.

24. *Nerodia sipedon sipedon* (Northern watersnake)

A DOR adult was observed on 7 May 1999 along County Route 758, 0.5 km south of the County Route 661 junction. The specimen was not salvaged.

### Discussion

Jordan (1986) documented several reptile species in cedar glade habitats in Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Tennessee that may occur in The Cedars region of Lee County. These include the southeastern five-lined skink (*Eumeces inexpectatus*), broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*), six-lined racerunner (*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*), southeastern crowned snake (*Tantilla coronata*), scarletsnake (*Cemophora coccinea*), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), and eastern milksnake (*Lampropeltus triangulum*). Only the last two of these seven species has been documented in far southwestern Virginia (Mitchell, 1994; Mitchell and Reay, 1999). However, all three lizards and the scarlet snake are known from areas of Kentucky and/or Tennessee adjacent to Lee County (Meade, 1991; Conant and Collins, 1998). Likewise, three amphibians that Jordan (1986) found in cedar glade habitats in Tennessee are yet unknown from far southwestern Virginia, but they all occur in nearby Kentucky and/or Tennessee (Redmond and Floyd, 1996; Conant and Collins, 1998). These species, which should be sought in Lee County, are the marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), and eastern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*).

Other species that are known from Lee County (Mitchell, 1994; Mitchell and Reay, 1999) which may inhabit The Cedars include the northern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*), southern two-lined salamander (*Eurycea cirrigera*), spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*), red-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*), snapping



## Herps of The Cedars, Lee County, Virginia

turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*), black racer (*Coluber constrictor*), rough greensnake (*Opheodrys aestivus*), queen snake (*Regina septemvittata*), and eastern gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*). Snakes recorded from neighboring Scott County, Virginia, but not yet documented in Lee County (or The Cedars) include the cornsnake (*Elaphe guttata*), northern brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*), and smooth earthsnake (*Virginia valeriae*) (Mitchell, 1994; Mitchell and Reay, 1999; Hoffman, 2000). Two other snake species that have never been documented in far southwestern Virginia are known from one or both of the counties (Bell and Harlan) in extreme southeastern Kentucky that abut Lee County. These species are the pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) and red-bellied snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*) (Meade, 1991). Likewise, the mole kingsnake (*Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata*) is known from nearby Tennessee (Conant and Collins, 1998). Finally, the little brown skink (*Scincella lateralis*), which is known only as far west as Patrick County in Virginia (Mitchell, 1994; Mitchell and Reay, 1999), is known from both extreme southeastern Kentucky and extreme northeastern Tennessee (Conant and Collins, 1998). Additional surveys of The Cedars and other parts of Lee County for amphibians and reptiles, particularly snakes, are clearly warranted.

Construction of the new airport facility has resulted in the destruction of several hundred acres of unique natural habitat within The Cedars area. This facility, a new federal prison, and the widening of U.S. Route 58 through Lee County are intended to bring increased economic development to the region, which is one of the most economically depressed areas of Virginia. Consequently, it is imperative that more land within The Cedars region be protected in the near future. To this end, the Division of Natural Heritage is actively working to acquire additional tracts of land to expand the size of the natural area preserve. As time permits, more intensive surveys of the herpetofauna of The Cedars Natural Area Preserve also will be conducted.

### Acknowledgments

Anne Chazal assisted with field surveys of the natural area preserve. Mill Creek Environmental Consultants, Ltd., provided financial assistance for surveys of the airport site. Richard Hoffman reviewed the manuscript.

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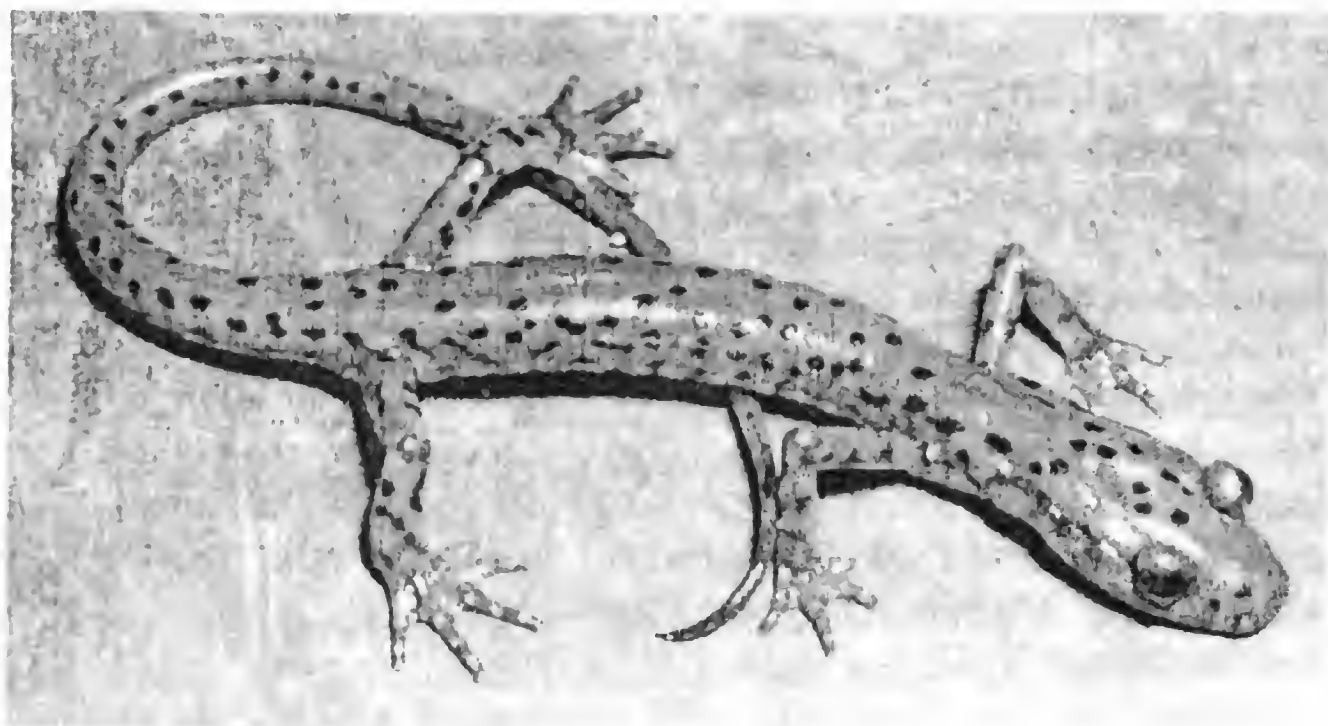
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Cave salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*) from The Cedars.



## FIELD NOTES

*Necturus maculosus maculosus* (Common Mudpuppy). VA: Russell Co., Clinch River, Cleveland Island (The Nature Conservancy Property). 19 June 2002. David W. Garst.

On 19 June 2002, while snorkeling for freshwater mussels in the Clinch River, I hand-captured a juvenile common mudpuppy. The mudpuppy was found under a piece of man-made debris on the stream bottom. The debris was in a shallow run on gravel and pebble substrate with an approximate depth of 30 cm. The juvenile was approximately 90 mm in total length. The specimen had a dark dorsal stripe edged with yellowish stripes, characteristic of the juvenile stage (Petranka, J. W. 1998. Salamanders of the Eastern United States and Canada, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 587 pp.). The mudpuppy ranges from southern Canada south to northern portions of Mississippi, east to southwestern Virginia and as far west as eastern Oklahoma and North Dakota within the interior basin (Petranka, op. cit.). In the upper Tennessee River drainage in Virginia, the common mudpuppy has been recorded in the counties of Lee, Scott, and Tazewell (Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Special Publication No.1, Richmond Virginia. 122 pp.). More recent records have documented the mudpuppy in the South Fork Holston River in Smyth County, Virginia (Williams, L. A. and M. J. Pinder. 2001. Field Notes: *Necturus maculosus maculosus* [Common Mudpuppy]. Catesbeiana 21:29-32). This is the first documented record for the mudpuppy in Russell County. The mudpuppy has previously been listed as a federal candidate species but its status in Virginia is undetermined.

The specimen was identified and photographed by Michael J. Pinder. A voucher slide will be deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

### DAVID W. GARST

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Wildlife Diversity Division  
2206 South Main Street, Suite C  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

*Lampropeltis getula getula* (Eastern Kingsnake). VA: Floyd Co., Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 156.3. 29 June 2001. Donald G. Mackler and S. Christian d'Orgeix.

On 29 June 2001, Dr. Chris d'Orgeix and I were collecting data for the National Park Service and Virginia Tech's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Floyd County. We found an adult female eastern kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula getula*) along the northwest side at milepost 156.3. This is a new county record, filling a gap along the Blue Ridge between known records in Bedford County (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Special Publication 1, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.), and a closer record in Patrick County (Hogan, R. S. 2002. *Field Notes: Lampropeltis getula getula* [Eastern Kingsnake]. *Catesbeiana* 22:14). The nearest record in Virginia's Piedmont is in Henry County (Mitchell, op. cit.; Mitchell and Reay, op. cit.). Unique aspects of this Floyd County location are that it is the highest elevation record at 2650 ft (780 m) for the species that I could find, as well as the closest to a New River Valley drainage (just a few hundred meters to the northwest, based on estimates from USGS maps). The snake was found a few centimeters from shallow, open water in an open, extensive former wetland that was heavily ditched about the early 1980's. Microhabitat dominated primarily by sedges (especially *Scirpus expansus*) provided shelter. The specimen showed no evidence of intergradation with the eastern black kingsnake, *Lampropeltis getula nigra*. The snake was immediately released at the exact location of its discovery after it was photographed because all plants and animals may not be removed from Blue Ridge Parkway property without a permit. Voucher slides will be deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

I am also aware of an unvouchered sight record of an eastern kingsnake from the Blue Ridge Parkway in Patrick County, Virginia. An unpublished report (in BRP files) entitled "Reptiles and Amphibian Survey 1984 & 1985, Blue Ridge Parkway, Rocky Knob District" mentions an eastern kingsnake (20-25 inches total length) that was observed by Park Ranger J. W. Howard in August 1984 at milepost 179.4



## Field Notes

near the Co. Route 614 bridge over Round Meadow Creek. This record was not plotted by Tobey (1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, Virginia. 114 pp.), Mitchell (op. cit.) or Mitchell and Reay (op. cit.).

### **DONALD G. MACKLER**

810 Progress Street

Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

*Lampropeltis getula getula* (Eastern Kingsnake). VA: Patrick Co., Helms Road (Co. Rt. 610), 0.2 km NW jct. Cloudbreak Road (Co. Rt. 764), 3.5 km ENE Meadows of Dan. 29 May 2002. Robert Wright and Warren Gray.

An adult specimen measuring 11.4 cm total length was found DOR on the edge of pavement contiguous to habitat containing brushy thickets and overgrown abandoned hayfields. The specimen had 34 continuous, equally spaced bright yellow crossbands against a shiny black dorsal coloration. The specimen was too decomposed to be salvaged, but a voucher photograph will be deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

The eastern kingsnake is not common in the Blue Ridge Province of Virginia (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.). The taxon was recently reported by Robert Hogan (2002. Field Notes: *Lampropeltis getula getula* [Eastern Kingsnake]. Catesbeiana 22:14) as a Patrick County record. Here, we report another eastern kingsnake near the Meadows of Dan at an elevation just over 1044 m. Both Hogan's record and this report firmly establish that the eastern kingsnake occurs on the southern Blue Ridge Plateau in Virginia, well above the highest elevation of 701 m reported by Palmer and Braswell (1995. Reptiles of North Carolina. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 412 pp.) in neighboring North Carolina.

### **ROBERT WRIGHT and WARREN GRAY**

Parsons Corporation

10521 Rosehaven Street, Second Floor

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

*Nerodia erythrogaster erythrogaster* (Red-bellied Watersnake).  
VA: Isle of Wight Co., Co. Rt. 614, adjacent to Blackwater Ecologic Preserve, ca. 1.6 km NE jct. Co. Rt. 603. 4 September 2002. Steven M. Roble and Christopher S. Hobson.

Shortly after dusk on 4 September 2002, we found a fresh DOR adult red-bellied watersnake on County Route 614 along the southern border of the Blackwater Ecologic Preserve. The air temperature was about 80 F (27 C) and a thunderstorm was approaching the area. This is the first documented record for this species from Isle of Wight County and only the third record for the Blackwater River drainage (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.). Although Horse Swamp is shown on USGS topographic maps very near this site, no standing water was evident within sight of the dead snake (we checked the next morning also), presumably due to the recent drought; the Blackwater River is ca. 1.5 km due west. A previous record of this species from Southampton County (Mitchell, op. cit.) was obtained on the opposite side of the river, probably within 5 miles (8 km) of our sighting. A voucher slide will be deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

**STEVEN M. ROBLE and CHRISTOPHER S. HOBSON**

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Natural Heritage  
217 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

*Nerodia erythrogaster erythrogaster* (Red-bellied Watersnake).  
VA: Sussex Co., Chub Sandhill Natural Area Preserve, Co. Rt. 631, 0.4 km NE Nottoway River. 22 April 1996. Timothy Berry, Karen Dudley, Christopher S. Hobson, Steven M. Roble and Dirk J. Stevenson.

During a Division of Natural Heritage field trip on 22 April 1996, an adult red-bellied watersnake was captured at a large woodland vernal pond on the Chub Sandhill Natural Area Preserve. The pond is along County



## Field Notes

Route 631, approximately 400 meters northeast of the Nottoway River bridge. This is the second record of this species from Sussex County and only the third record for the Nottoway River drainage (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.). Chub Sandhill Natural Area Preserve is about mid-way between the two previous Nottoway River sites for the red-bellied watersnake. The specimen was photographed and released.

### STEVEN M. ROBLE

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Natural Heritage  
217 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

*Opheodrys aestivus* (Rough Greensnake). VA: Southampton Co., Co. Rt. 730, ca. 2.75 km E Little Texas. 10 September 2002. Dean Walton and Mark Hall.

On 10 September 2002, a rough greensnake (*Opheodrys aestivus*) was found DOR on County Route 730 between the communities of Little Texas and White Head Hall. The approximate location was estimated to be 2.75 km east of Little Texas. Although there are many records for this species in the surrounding counties, this specimen marks the first record for Southampton County (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Special Publication, No. 1, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.). The specimen measured 43.3 cm in total length. It will be donated to the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

### DEAN P. WALTON

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Natural Heritage  
217 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

*Nerodia sipedon* (Northern Watersnake). VA: City of Virginia Beach, North Landing River Natural Area Preserve, ca. 2 km SW Pleasant Ridge. 15 May 2001. Christopher S. Hobson.

The northern watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon*) is one of the more familiar snakes in Virginia, occurring statewide, including several of the barrier islands (Mitchell, J.C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.). Uhler et al. (1939. Food of snakes of the George Washington National Forest, Virginia. Transactions of the 4<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife Conference 1939: 605-622) and Mitchell (op. cit.) provided a list of prey items from Virginia, and Ernst and Barbour (1989. Snakes of Eastern North America. George Mason University Press, Fairfax, Virginia. 282 pp.) summarized known prey of this species. On 15 May 2001, I captured an adult *N. sipedon* (ca. 2.5 ft TL) as it was crossing a road in the North Landing River Natural Area Preserve in Virginia Beach. This specimen was abnormally sluggish, and reluctant to move when provoked. The snake never attempted to bite when handled, instead preferring to hide its head beneath the coils of its body. After approximately 1 minute of handling, the snake began to regurgitate food items. These food items included 2 redbfin pickerel (*Esox americanus*)(145 and 150 mm TL), 9 eastern mudminnow (*Umbra pygmaea*), 2 sunfish (*Enneacanthus* sp.), and 3 ranid tadpoles. After releasing the snake, and collecting the food items, I examined the roadside where the snake had emerged. A small pool (ca. 3' x 3.5') was found immediately off the roadside, and contained a small number of tadpoles, and fish, including most of the species regurgitated by the snake. This suggests that the snake had been foraging on the isolated fish and tadpoles in the roadside pool.

**CHRISTOPHER S. HOBSON**

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Natural Heritage  
217 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219



## Field Notes

*Regina septemvittata* (Queen Snake). VA: Campbell Co., Tussocky Creek, ca. 150 m N Co. Rt. 680 bridge, 3.5 km NNW Rustburg. 16 May 2002. Robert Wright and Whitney Wagamon; Seneca Creek, 2.7 km S VA Rt. 24 and 2.9 km SE Yellow Branch. 6 June 2002. Robert Wright and Whitney Wagamon.

Both snakes were sighted among submerged flat, micaceous schist rocks in two different watersheds (James and Roanoke Rivers). The queen snake from Tussocky Creek was identified in still, clear water but was unsuccessfully photographed while under shallow water. The queen snake from Seneca Creek was captured, photographed and released. Voucher photographs will be deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

There is a general lack of records for this species in the Piedmont of Virginia south and southeast of Lynchburg. Mitchell and Reay (1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.) reported two records for the City of Lynchburg, and another on the border between Campbell and Bedford counties, presumably near Evington. There are no published records for Franklin, Pittsylvania, or Halifax counties, but there are records for Henry and Mecklenburg counties (Mitchell and Reay, op. cit.). Additionally, Mitchell (1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C. 352 pp.) reported a Charlotte County specimen near Aspenwall, but Tobey (1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, Virginia. 114 pp.) and Mitchell and Reay (op. cit.) did not.

**ROBERT WRIGHT and WHITNEY WAGAMON**

Parsons Corporation

10521 Rosehaven Street, Second Floor

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

*Clemmys guttata* (Spotted Turtle). VA: Accomack Co., Assateague Island, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, ca. 0.25 km SSE of Assateague Channel shoreline along main refuge road (ca. 40 m SSE of toll plaza). 2 June 2001. Timothy R. Brophy, Andrew Krivenko, and Diana Raichel.

According to Mitchell (1999. Checklist and keys to the amphibians and reptiles of Virginia's Eastern Shore. *Catesbeiana* 19:3-18), all herpetofaunal observations from Virginia's Eastern Shore should be reported to the scientific community, including those that contribute to a better understanding of distributional patterns. On 2 June 2001 at 1800 h, we found an adult spotted turtle in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island, Virginia. It was heading east across the main refuge road approximately 0.25 km SSE of the Assateague Channel shoreline (ca. 40 m SSE of toll plaza). The turtle was examined, photographed, and released on the side of the road to which it was heading. Carl H. Ernst verified identification and a color photograph has been deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Spotted turtles have been reported previously from Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. Fowler (1925. Records of amphibians and reptiles for Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Part 3, Virginia. *Copeia* 1925: 65-67) found *C. guttata* on Chincoteague Island in May 1912. Lee (1972. List of amphibians and reptiles of Assateague Island. *Bulletin of the Maryland Herpetological Society* 8:90-95) reported a single *C. guttata* sighting from the south end of Assateague Island in Spring 1971. Mitchell and Anderson (1994. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Assateague and Chincoteague Islands*. Virginia Museum of Natural History Special Publication 2, Martinsville, Virginia. 120 pp.) found one spotted turtle in the Maryland portion of Assateague Island National Seashore in May 1992. Most recently, Toadvine (2000. Comparison of six monitoring techniques for the reptiles and amphibians at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Unpublished M.S. thesis, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Maryland) found *C. guttata* in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (Assateague Island) during 1999-2000. All of these reports are extremely brief (1-2 sentences each), lack specific locality/collection data, and make no reference to accompanying specimens or photographs.



## Field Notes

Voucher specimens are extremely important to many types of biological studies. They are the only mechanism for validating the presence of a species in a study and for making historical comparisons (Reynolds, R. P., R. I. Crombie and R. W. McDiarmid. 1994. Voucher specimens. Pp. 66-71 *In* W. R. Heyer, M. A. Donnelly, R. W. McDiarmid, L. C. Hayek and M. S. Foster [eds.]. *Measuring and Monitoring Biological Diversity: Standard Methods for Amphibians*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.). In order to fulfill their function, vouchers must illustrate the recognized diagnostic traits of a species, be preserved in good condition, be documented with appropriate field data, be deposited and maintained in a suitable institution, and be readily accessible (Lee, W. L., B. M. Bell and J. F. Sutton. 1982. *Guidelines for acquisition and management of biological specimens*. Association of Systematics Collections, Lawrence, Kansas). The spotted turtle discussed above was found in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and could not, therefore, be legally collected. When undisputed reasons exist not to collect a voucher specimen, a good-quality photograph may serve as a substitute (Reynolds et al., op. cit.). For all the above reasons, our color photograph serves as a valid voucher. In fact, the spotted turtle reported here represents the first vouchered record for the Virginia portion of Assateague Island (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*. Special Publication 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.).

### **TIMOTHY R. BROPHY**

New Covenant Schools  
1350 Liggates Road  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

### **ANDREW KRIVENKO and DIANA RAICHEL**

13 Petunia Drive, Apt. 2K  
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902

*Terrapene carolina carolina* (Eastern Box Turtle). VA: City of Danville. 411 Airport Drive. 8 September 2002. Amanda Stennett.

On 8 September 2002, a Westwood Magnet Middle School student found an adult female eastern box turtle. This animal had the following measurements: carapace length (11 cm), plastron length (11.5 cm), and mass (278.3 g). The female had brown irises and on the second vertebral scute some shell wearing to the bone was observed. This specimen represents a new record for the City of Danville (Mitchell, J.C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J.C. and K.K Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Special Publication No. 1, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.). A color voucher slide will be deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

**JASON D. GIBSON and AMANDA STENNETT**

Westwood Magnet Middle School  
500 Apollo Avenue  
Danville, Virginia 24541

*Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (Common Snapping Turtle). VA: Pittsylvania Co., jct. VA Rt. 41 and Co. Rt. 1182. 5 May 2002. Jason D. Gibson.

On 5 May 2002, a juvenile common snapping turtle was found DOR at the intersection of State Route 41 and County Road 1182. This is the first vouchered record for this species from Pittsylvania County (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Special Publication No. 1, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp). A dried turtle carcass will be deposited in the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

**JASON D. GIBSON**

Westwood Magnet Middle School  
500 Apollo Avenue  
Danville, Virginia 24541



## Field Notes

*Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (Eastern Snapping Turtle). VA: City of Danville, Market Gardens Playground. 1 September 2002. Jarrid Waller.

On 1 September 2002, a Westwood Magnet Middle School student found a juvenile eastern snapping turtle in a creek. This animal had the following measurements: carapace length (3 cm) and plastron length (2.5 cm). This specimen represents a new record for the City of Danville (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Special Publication No. 1, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.). A color voucher slide will be deposited in the VHS archives at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

### **JASON D. GIBSON and JARRID WALLER**

Westwood Magnet Middle School

500 Apollo Avenue

Danville, Virginia 24541

*Clemmys muhlenbergii* (Bog Turtle). VA: Floyd Co., north of Floyd (exact location withheld due to State Endangered status). 18 July 2001. Gina M. Pisoni and Steven M. Roble.

On 18 July 2001, an adult female bog turtle was found in a previously undocumented wetland for this species in northern Floyd County. The specimen was photographed, marked, and released. This site is within one mile of the Montgomery County line, making it the nearest currently known bog turtle location to that county. This new record thus potentially adds credence to the unvouchered but steadfast report from the late Charles O. Handley, Jr. (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C. 352 pp.) that bog turtles formerly inhabited Montgomery County in the vicinity of Blacksburg. Tobey (1985. *Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey*. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, Virginia. 114 pp.) stated that this (Handley's) record was based on a bog turtle observed in 1940 on the Virginia Tech farm west of Blacksburg and might have represented an introduction. The first bog turtle specimen collected in

Virginia was not obtained until 1957 (Hutchison, V. H. 1963. Record of the bog turtle, *Clemmys muhlenbergi*, in southwestern Virginia. Copeia 1963: 156-157.).

**STEVEN M. ROBLE**

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Natural Heritage  
217 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

*Pseudemys concinna* (River Cooter). VA: City of Danville, Danville City Cross Walk River Trail. 25 January 2002. Jennifer Gibson.

On 25 January 2002, an adult river cooter was observed basking on a log in the Dan River at 1430 h. The temperature was 60 F. This represents an extremely early activity date for this species in Virginia (Mitchell, J.C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.). Mitchell reported the annual activity period of this species as extending from March to November in Virginia. A voucher slide was not obtained. This is the first unvouchered record for this species from the City of Danville (Mitchell, op. cit.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Special Publication No. 1, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.) and represents a considerable range extension for the species in Virginia. A voucher slide or specimen will be collected in the future.

**JASON D. GIBSON**

Westwood Magnet Middle School  
500 Apollo Avenue  
Danville, Virginia 24541

**JENNIFER G. GIBSON**

Kentuck Elementary School  
100 Kentuck Elementary Circle  
Ringgold, Virginia 24586



## President's Corner

My first thoughts that come to mind when writing this President's Corner are "Thank you." The functioning and sustainability of this society are dependent on the many members and non-members that organize survey meetings, give presentations and present papers, participate in business meetings and spring surveys, and serve as officers and editors. Steve Roble, Shelly Miller, and John White put many hours into developing our journal, newsletter, and website. Paul Sattler spends numerous hours writing minutes for each meeting, reminding members when their memberships have expired, and balancing our books. They have all done a great job and the VHS appreciates their efforts.

The spring meeting, although extremely cold and wet, was in my mind a success. Personally, I added three species of salamanders to my life list. Preliminary evidence suggests that we may have even found a marbled salamander. Paul Sattler has been raising several larvae since the spring survey, one of these is beginning to acquire adult coloration and appears to be a marbled salamander. This would represent a major extension of its range in Virginia. The spring surveys that the VHS conducts are meeting our goals of research and conservation. The VHS appreciates the efforts of employees from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Betsy Stinson, Bill Bassinger, and Mike Mabe did an excellent job scouting places for VHS members to survey and for leading small groups to these areas. Many thanks from the VHS. During the business meeting, three people gave presentations. John White gave a talk on the herp species that potentially lived in the area. Betsy Stinson discussed the history of the Big Survey Wildlife Management Area and discussed habitats and locations that were good for surveying. Gordon Wilson presented a few aspects of his doctoral research on box turtles. The VHS is very fortunate to have members who contribute in so many ways. A full report of the survey will appear in the spring 2003 edition of *Catesbeiana*.

In 1999, I had the idea of a symposium that would focus on ambystomatid salamanders. This dream is coming true on October 12, 2002. Amphibians around the world have been declining since the 1980's and I wanted to bring together experts and amateur naturalists to talk about the state of mole salamanders in Virginia. We actually know very little about these large salamanders. I invite and encourage all members to come and learn more about the six species of mole salamanders that live in Virginia.

## CATESBEIANA 2002, 22(2)

I look forward to seeing familiar and new faces at this very important meeting.

Jason Gibson  
VHS President

### Minutes of the Spring 2002 VHS Meeting Wytheville, VA

Jason Gibson opened the meeting at the Wytheville County Library. Paul Sattler gave the Treasurer's Report as printed in *Catesbeiana* 22(1). The current balance in the checking account was \$4,322 in May 2002. Shelly Miller gave the Newsletter Report. The next Newsletter is scheduled for June or July 2002. Anyone wishing to receive it electronically via email, who is not currently doing so, should email Shelly at [smiller@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:smiller@dgif.state.va.us) or Paul Sattler at [psattler@liberty.edu](mailto:psattler@liberty.edu). The electronic copy will arrive faster and is more environmentally friendly. John White gave the Website Report. The site is currently receiving about 1,000 hits per month. If anyone has better pictures than those displayed, please send them to John via the website (<http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS>). The *Catesbeiana* Report was submitted via email. Steve Roble printed 170 copies of *Catesbeiana* 22(1) and mailed out 148 copies. Articles and drawings which can be used in the journal should be sent to Steve Roble.

There is a desire to schedule the Spring meetings farther in advance than has been done in the past. Toward that end, several sites were discussed. There is a desire to get back to the Coastal Plain area for a survey. There was some discussion as to whether there should be a larger purpose to the survey than is current. The search for a species which could potentially exist in Virginia, but has never been documented was given as an example. Jason Gibson and John White will explore the possibilities.

The Fall Symposium on *Ambystoma* salamanders was announced. It will be held on October 12, 2002 at the 4-H Education Center at Holiday Lake in Appomattox County. Mike Hayslett will be hosting the meeting and coordinating the Teacher's Education Workshop. Lodging will be available for those traveling from a distance, and lunch may be purchased.



## Minutes

The photo contest will have an *Ambystoma* theme. There will be a silent auction.

The current leadership expressed a desire to line up candidates for the next elections well in advance of the next election in the Fall of 2003. Anyone interested in serving in a leadership position should contact Jason Gibson. There was some discussion as to whether greater participation would occur with mail-in ballots rather than holding the vote at the meeting with only those members present.

The VHS has committed to sponsoring a 12" x 14" interpretive sign describing some of the reptiles found in wetlands to help develop Dehart Memorial County Park in Patrick County. The cost would be between \$220 and \$300. The sign would picture some of the wetland reptiles found locally and discuss some turtle and snake anatomy.

The Wytheville County Library was thanked for allowing us to use their facility for the meeting. It was suggested that the VHS purchase a stock of "The Reptiles of Virginia" and donate one to the different libraries which host our Spring meetings as a way of expressing our gratitude.

Following the meeting, Mr. Gordon Wilson described some of his research on the reproductive biology of Box Turtles in central Virginia. Then, Betsy Stinson described the Big Survey Wildlife Management Area and the types of habitats we were to survey, and John White presented a slide show of the herps which might be found.

Paul Sattler  
VHS Secretary/Treasurer

## Dues Reminder

Membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society is on a calendar year basis (expires annually on December 31). Please consider renewing your membership for 2003 now to save our treasurer the time and expense needed to mail you a renewal notice. **Check the date on your mailing label to determine the year through which you have paid dues.** See the last page of this bulletin for the membership application/renewal form. Save postage by paying your dues at the Fall Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report, August 2002**

Previous Checking Balance April 2002	<b>\$4474.96</b>
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Receipts:

April Memberships	\$ 60.00
May Memberships	\$ 275.00
June Memberships	\$ 65.00
July Memberships	\$ 60.00
August Memberships	\$ 80.00

Total Receipts	<b>\$ 540.00</b>
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Disbursements:

Catesbeiana 22(2)	\$ 392.39
Spring Survey Collecting Permit	\$ 40.00
Luray Zoo Reptile Exhibit	\$ 100.00
Wetlands Sign Exhibit	\$ 295.00
Support of Legislative Field Trip	\$ 200.00
Newsletter 12(2)	\$ 93.83

Total Disbursements	<b>\$1121.22</b>
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Balance on Hand August, 2002	
Checking	<b>\$3893.74</b>

Paul Sattler  
VHS Secretary/Treasurer



## Fall Meeting Announcement

### ANNOUNCEMENT FALL 2002 MEETING *Ambystoma* Symposium

The VHS will hold its fall meeting on Saturday, October 12, 2002, at Holliday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, Virginia. This meeting will focus on ambystomatid salamanders found in our area. Virginia has six species of mole salamanders, including Jefferson Salamander, Mabee's Salamander, Spotted Salamander, Marbled Salamander, Mole Salamander, and Eastern Tiger Salamander. The goal of this symposium is to bring together people conducting research on these animals to discuss current research, observations, sampling techniques, and status of these creatures in Virginia. Four people have already committed to speak on different species of salamanders. I currently do not have anyone discussing the Marbled Salamander or the Jefferson Salamander. I would like to have at least two more speakers. Anyone interested in giving a presentation is welcome. Please contact Jason Gibson at (434) 724-9034 or [frogman31@earthlink.net](mailto:frogman31@earthlink.net) as soon as possible.

A photo contest, with a theme of mole salamanders, will be held. Prizes will be awarded to the top three photos. A silent auction will also occur during the paper session. Please bring any items that can be donated for the auction.

The Holliday Lake 4-H Educational Center has accommodations for people traveling from a distance. Reservations can be made for Friday or Saturday night by calling Brenda Gion at 434-248-5444 or [bgion@vt.edu](mailto:bgion@vt.edu). A fee of \$9.50 will be charged for each night. A simple lunch (sandwiches) will be provided at a nominal fee. Anyone interested in bringing a covered dish or other lunch item can contact Jason Gibson or John White ([reptiles@erols.com](mailto:reptiles@erols.com)). If you have been wondering how you can help, this is a good way.

The VHS will also sponsor a teacher's workshop from 8:00 to 12:00. Teachers from surrounding counties will be invited to participate. Anyone interested in helping can contact Jason or John. Please visit the VHS website for additional information.

MEETING AGENDA

8:00-12:00 AM	Educational workshop for teachers
11:00 AM	Business meeting
12:00 PM	Lunch (sandwiches)
1:00 PM	Presentations Silent auction Photo contest

Directions to Holliday Lake 4-H Educational Center

**From Lynchburg/Roanoke:** take 460 East to Appomattox, turn left onto Rt. 24 East toward Appomattox Courthouse, drive 7 miles, turn right onto Rt. 626, drive 5 miles to Rt. 723. The Center is at the end of Rt. 723.

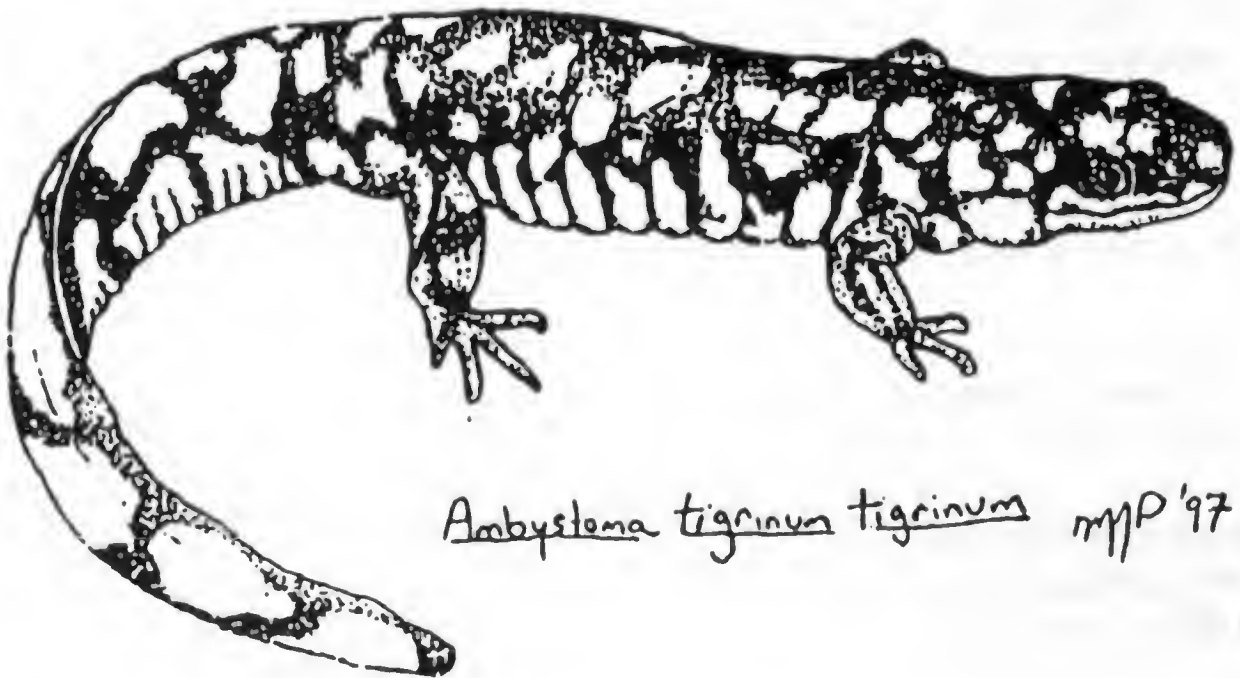
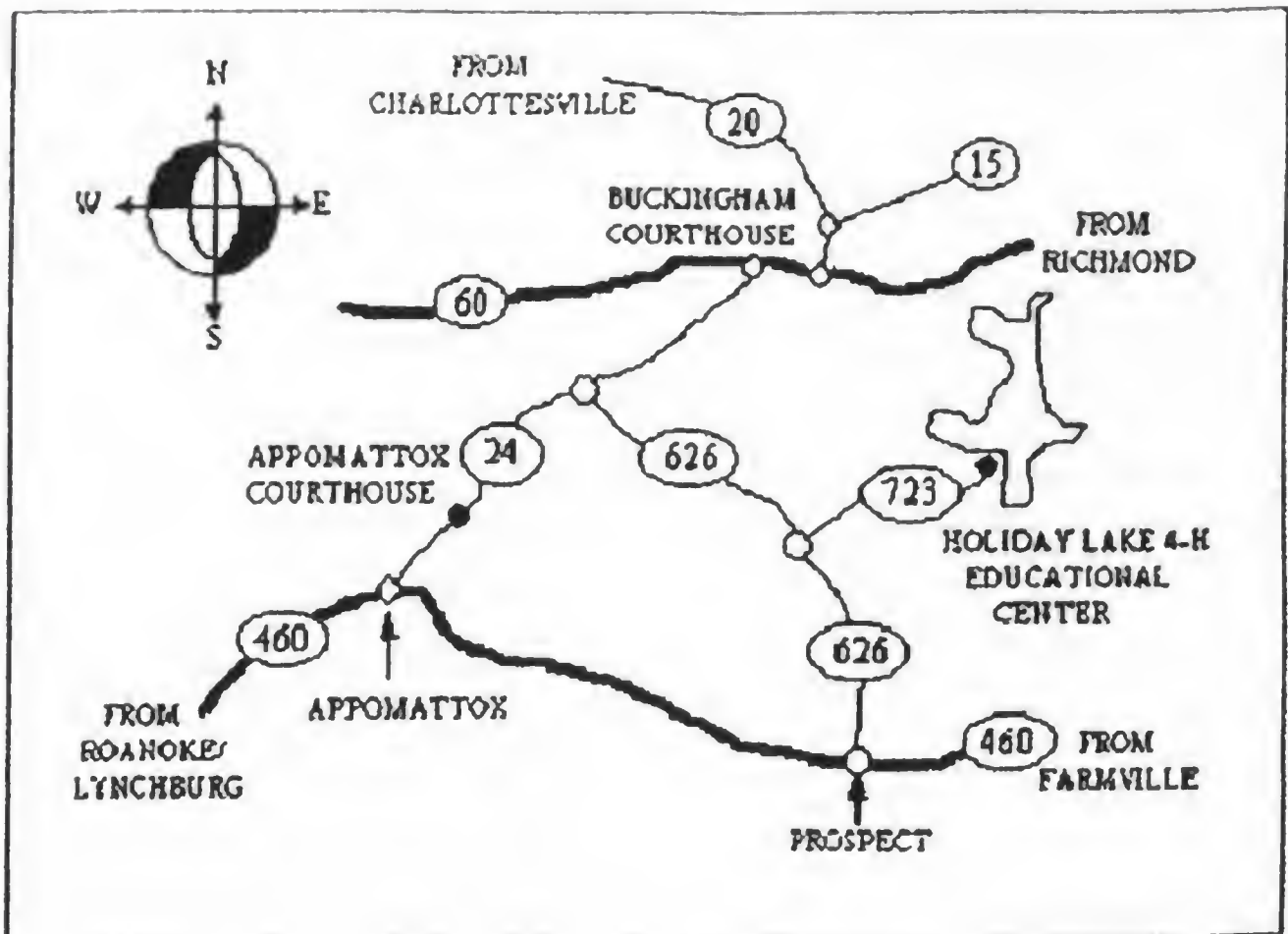
**From Richmond:** Take Rt. 60 West past Buckingham Courthouse, turn left onto Rt. 24, drive 10 miles, turn left onto Rt. 626, drive 5 miles to Rt. 723. The Center is at the end of Rt. 723.

**From Charlottesville:** Take Rt. 20 South turn right onto Rt. 15 South, drive 1 mile, turn right onto Route 60 West past Buckingham Courthouse, turn left onto Rt. 24, drive 10 miles, turn left onto Rt. 626, drive 5 miles to Rt. 723. The Center is at the end of Rt. 723.

**From Farmville:** take Rt. 460 West to Prospect, turn right onto Rt. 626 follow Rt. 626 10 miles, turn right onto Rt. 723, The Center is at the end of Rt. 723.



## Fall Meeting Announcement



*Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum* mYP '97

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to \_\_\_\_\_ initiate \_\_\_\_\_ renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year \_\_\_\_\_ 2002 \_\_\_\_\_ 2003 \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$15.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$20.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Under 18 (\$8.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Life (\$225.00)

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_ Amphibians \_\_\_\_\_ Reptiles

\_\_\_\_\_ Distribution \_\_\_\_\_ Research

\_\_\_\_\_ Captive Husbandry

\_\_\_\_\_ Specifically \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to:  
Dr. Paul Sattler, VHS Secretary/Treasurer, Department of Biology,  
Liberty University, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502

Visit the VHS web site at: <http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS/>



## Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other topics are welcomed. Field Notes will usually concern a single species. The format of the reports is: Scientific name (followed by common name in parentheses), state abbreviation (VA), county and location, date(s) of observation, observer(s), data, and observations. The name(s) and address(es) of the author(s) should appear one line below the report. Consult the editor if your information does not readily fit this format. ALL FIELD NOTES MUST INCLUDE A BRIEF STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECORD (e.g., new county record) OR OBSERVATION (e.g., unusual or rarely observed behavior, extremely early or late seasonal record, abnormal coloration, etc.). Submissions that fail to include this information are subject to rejection. Relevant literature should be cited in the body of the text (see Field Notes in this issue for proper format). All submissions will be reviewed by the editor (and one other person if deemed necessary) and revised as needed; all changes must be approved by the author(s) before publication.

If the field note contains information on a new county (or state) record, verification is REQUIRED in the form of a voucher specimen deposited in a permanent museum (e.g., Virginia Museum of Natural History) or a color photograph (print or slide) deposited in the archives of the Virginia Herpetological Society. Photographs should be sent to the editor for verification and archiving purposes; the identity of voucher specimens must be confirmed by a museum curator or other qualified person. Include the specimen number if it has been catalogued. Prospective authors of distribution reports should consult Mitchell and Reay (1999. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*), Mitchell (1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*), Tobey (1985. *Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey*) and other recent literature to determine if they may have a new county record. Species identification for observational records (e.g., behavior) should be verified by a second person whenever possible.

The correct citation format is: Tobey, F. J. 1989. Field notes: *Coluber constrictor constrictor. Catesbeiana* 9(2): 35.

## Photographs

High contrast black-and-white photographs of amphibians and reptiles will be considered for publication if they are of good quality and are relevant to an accompanying article or field note. Submissions should be no larger than 5 x 7 inches and printed on glossy paper. Published photographs will be deposited in the archives of the Virginia Herpetological Society.